

who gave their lives building railroads across this country, South-Asian immigrants denied equal employment opportunities, and those Asian/Pacific Americans who were the innocent victims of hate crimes.

Despite the struggle that Asian/Pacific Americans have faced in this country, they have been among our nation's finest and greatest contributors, scientifically, economically, artistically, and politically. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely fortunate to work side-by-side with such great Asian/Pacific-Islander contributors as Congressman FALEOMAVAEGA, ROBERT MATSUI, PATSY MINK, DAVID WU, and also, Mr. UNDERWOOD. They are not the only Asian Pacific-Islander leaders of note. I am especially privileged to work with such great humanitarians as Bill Lann Lee, the Acting Assistant Attorney General of Civil Rights and Harold Koh, the Assistant Secretary of Democracy, Labor, and Human Rights. By appointing more Asian Pacific Americans than any former President has, President Clinton has, I hope, only begun what will become an increasing trend in political appointments.

Mr. Speaker, there is a long list of Asian/Pacific Americans who have contributed intellectually and culturally to this country. Perhaps some of the most inspired and famous of these contributors are Asian/Pacific American women. ABC news correspondent Connie Chung has been a respected media presence for years. Doris Matsui, who is the current Deputy Assistant to the President has long been a prominent public service figure. Architect Maya Lin has given America an unforgettable monument to the Vietnam War. Writers Iris Chang, Jhumpa Lahiri, winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and Janice Mirikitani, the current Poet Laureate of San Francisco have gained widespread critical and popular recognition for their work. Two years ago, Kalpana Chawla became the first Indian American astronaut in space. Mr. Speaker, Asian/Pacific American women have truly taken the public spotlight with their accomplishments and courage.

On a national level, we are all familiar with the scientific work of Dr. David Ho, an innovative researcher who has battled to fight the AIDS virus. Throughout the world, Mr. Speaker, we have the privilege of being surrounded by breathtaking architecture, and among the most amazing buildings are the exquisite structures which reflect the visions of I.M. Pei—the magnificent East Wing of the National Gallery of Art here in Washington, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, the entrance to the Louvre in Paris, and many others. Across the United States, people have been moved by the thoughtful essays of Ronald Takaki, the memoir-based fiction of Chang-Rae Lee, and the musical inspiration of Zubin Mehta and Yo-Yo Ma. We are all awed by the strength and grace of athletes such as Michelle Kwan, former 49er Jesse Sapolu, and golfer Tiger Woods.

Mr. Speaker, I especially wanted to highlight three wonderful Asian/Pacific American heroes in my home district of San Mateo/San Francisco. They are Alice Bulos, an activist for Filipino-American issues, Ann Ito, the co-founder of the League of Women Voters, and David

Louie, a premiere reporter seen on the local Channel 7 News. Mr. Speaker, these local pioneers are incredible contributors to the cultural vitality of the San Francisco Bay Area and an integral part of the active Asian/Pacific American population which is a hallmark of the Bay Area.

Mr. Speaker, to individually recognize each of the Asian/Pacific Americans who have made outstanding civic and social contributions to this society would be an endless task. However, I believe that this month we should take the time to understand and realize that every Asian/Pacific American in this country has faced varying levels of ignorance and harmful bias in this country. It is our duty as Members of Congress to fight against any intolerance or prejudice in this country and to congratulate the achievements of Asian/Pacific Americans which are, in the light of the past and present injustices perpetrated against them, especially triumphant. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the stirring history and the breath-taking diversity that Asian/Pacific Americans have given to this country.

#### MUHAMMAD ALI BOXING REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. TOM BLILEY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 22, 2000*

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1832, the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, by my good colleague and friend Mr. OXLEY from Ohio.

Last year, the Commerce Committee received a letter signed by 19 bipartisan U.S. State Attorneys General asking that this legislation be enacted. The Attorneys General wrote that "this legislation will curb anti-competitive and fraudulent business practices and prevent blatant exploitation of professional boxers."

The International Boxing Digest stated "We support the new [boxing] bill, and urge all honest people in professional boxing to do likewise. Fighters need to be protected, and not simply from what happens in the ring. This bill does it like it's never done before." Ring Magazine said "Imagine a world in which fighters are not taken advantage of financially, title shots are awarded to legitimate contenders, and bogus alphabet organizations slowly fade from existence. If the Ali Act passes . . . that boxing heaven may just be located right here on earth."

H.R. 1832 would stop promoters from taking long term advantage of boxers. It prohibits coercive contracts, and limits acceptable conflicts of interests. H.R. 1832 also cleans up boxing's sanctioning bodies. All boxing ranking must be done based on objective and consistent written and published criteria, and sanctioning body employees are prohibited from receiving bribes from boxers and pro-

motors. Under the philosophy that sunlight is the best disinfectant for corruption, promoters, sanctioning bodies, and boxing judges and referees are all required to disclose their sources of benefits and compensation to prevent any backroom underhanded dealing.

Former heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali agreed to lend his name to this bill because he believes that boxers need to be protected from the "dishonest ways" of some promoters and managers. Boxing News wrote that "Pure, unvarnished greed is killing the game . . . Boxing desperately needs [a Federal] law . . . to cut down on the terrible corruption." H.R. 1832 by Congressman OXLEY cuts down on the corruption and brings honesty and fair and open dealing back to the sport of boxing.

I urge your support for this legislation.

#### SUPPORTING DAY OF HONOR FOR MINORITY WORLD WAR II VETERANS

SPEECH OF

**HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 23, 2000*

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 98 to support Minority Veterans who fought in WW II.

I ask you to join me in commending a group of well deserving military veterans. On April 12, this resolution was introduced with bipartisan support, to recognize the extraordinary contribution of minority veterans during World War II. Several U.S. Senators including military veterans JOHN MCCAIN, JOHN WARNER, and STROM THURMOND have co-sponsored an identical resolution in the U.S. Senate which passed with unanimous consent on May 18, 2000.

During World War II more than 1.5 million minorities recognized that the United States was an imperfect nation but also realized that it was their nation. Even though there was racism and segregation present throughout the country, like the famous Massachusetts 54th, these individuals anted up to serve their country in the Armed Forces in the belief that our nation could and would change. As a result of their unselfish call to duty, many of them sacrificed their lives.

A "Day of Honor" in recognition of their courageous service is long overdue. The Day of Honor 2000 Project is sponsored by a committed group of individuals, including minority veterans, who truly understand the importance of this effort. They are helping organize this initiative in communities throughout the nation.

These veterans through their effectiveness in combat and their devotion to duty helped destroy the color barrier within the Armed Forces and in American society in general.